(b) Total number of aecidents and persons arrested for drunken driving during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Total No. of Accidents	No. of Persons Arrested for Drunken Driving
1999	9909	19 -
2000	10245	26
2001	9344	32

(c) Section 185 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides for punishment for drunken driving. The first offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both and for a second or subsequent offence, if committed, within three years of the commission of the previous similar offence, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to three thousand rupees, or with both. The offence is not compoundable under section 200 Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. A violator can also be arrested without warrant under section 202 Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 by a police officer. The provision of Section 185 Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 does not differentiate driving under influence of drugs and alcohol during day or night or during festivities or otherwise.

Road Accidents in Delhi

3930. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been highest number of accidental deaths in the capital;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the authorities have failed to take stringent steps matching the ever increasing traffic resulting the highest number of accidental deaths as well as injuries to road users in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government to augment the traffic management and expediting completion of medical legal formalities by the police authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Delhi accounts for the highest number of accident deaths among the metropolitan cities in the country.

(b) and (c) The matter falls within the purview of Government of NCT of Delhi/Delhi Police. According to information obtained from Delhi Police, due to various measures such as night/mobile patrolling, special speed checking on accident-prone-roads, and strict enforcement on ban on plying of medium and light goods vehicles on city roads, taken by them there has been decline in the number of road accident in Delhi since the year 2000.

Setting up of Different Zones for upkeep of National Highways

3931. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up different zones on the lines of railways for proper upkeep and maintenance of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) Regional Offices and Engineer Liaison Offices have been set up in various States to coordinate and liaison with the State Governments in respect of the development and maintenance of National Highways.